

# DECEMBER

ARCHIVES/ COLLECTION MAN 1-1-2001  
624 WASHINGTON AVE  
MONTGOMERY AL 36130-0100

3rd birthday

INSIDE

New Brockton  
holds annual  
Christmas Parade

INSIDE

Cheyenne Nelson  
bags 5-point buck

# The Elba Clipper

Volume 111, Number 26

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, December 6, 2007

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Insert

## Caught trying to sell counterfeit merchandise Coffee County authorities nab suspect in Elba

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Coffee County deputies made an arrest in Elba on Tuesday evening, Nov. 27, charging Leon Lyons, age 42, of Union Springs, with selling counterfeit merchandise.

Chief Deputy Ronnie Whitworth explained that he observed the man in the parking lot of an Elba restaurant trying to sell a heavy jacket for \$40. A short time later, Lyons was seen in another parking lot trying to sell other merchandise.

When his potential customer pointed out that law officers were approaching, Lyons reportedly left the area but was stopped on Paris Street. A search of his Ford Explorer turned up several dozen pairs of "Nike" shoes in much used boxes, various items of clothing,

**Five arrested  
by officials on  
drug charges**

Investigators with the Coffee County Sheriff's Department and the Enterprise Police Department conducted a driver's license checkpoint Friday, Nov. 30, that netted seven drug cases and three arrests.

The arrests and charges included:

- Deborah Brown, age 46, of Elba, Ala., arrested and charged with possession of crack cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia.

- Kenneth Paul McLendon Jr., age 30, of New Brockton, Ala., arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and carrying a pistol without a permit.

- Brandon Lee McLendon, age 25, of Jack, Ala., arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Also, on Monday, Dec. 3, deputies and investigators with the Coffee County Sheriff's Department, along with the Alabama Beverage Control (ABC) board and Covington County DTF, executed a search warrant of a residence after officers went to serve an arrest warrant. According to officials, the search warrant was executed because officers immediately detected the odor coming from

Please See DRUGS, Page 12

possibly fake lady's purses, with NCIC found outstanding cologne, jewelry, tools, sunglasses and a large supply of illegally copied CD's and movies. Some had fingerprints on the homemade labels. Many of the movies appeared to be pornographic in nature.

Whitworth said officers were surprised at the find, first thinking the man was involved in the sale of drugs at the time. Following his arrest, a check

with NCIC found outstanding warrants for Lyons from Cook County, Ill (Chicago).

The check also revealed that Lyons had an extensive criminal record.

He was jailed without bail in the Coffee County Jail and charged with felony possession of a firearm, possession of

counterfeit merchandise plus he is being held on a fugitive warrant from Cook County, Illinois.

**Leon Lyons**

LOCAL BUSINESS DESTROYED BY FIRE...Rogers Paint and Body Shop, located south of Elba on Highway 87, was completely destroyed by fire Monday night, Nov. 26. The blaze was reported just after 9:30 p.m., and firefighters remained on scene until after midnight. Responding to the scene were volunteer fire departments from Ino, Elba, Goodman and New Brockton. Also destroyed in the fire was a house located on the same lot as the body shop.

(Courtesy photo)

**'Tis the Season**

**Not all good deeds go unnoticed**

by Linda Hodge, Editor

They did not realize anyone was paying attention, but, someone did notice the "good deeds" being performed by Antwain and Tamya Griffin. Now, that person wants to publicly recognize the two siblings.

Annie Griffin arrived home last Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 28, and found a note with instructions to "take to The Elba Clipper." The note described the various acts of kindness displayed by Griffin's two children Antwain, age 16, and Tamya, age 7.

"I didn't realize anyone had noticed what they were doing," Mrs. Griffin said as she complied with the note's instructions and delivered it to the newspaper office.

Mrs. Griffin certainly wondered, though, who had thought enough of her children to want to recognize them for their efforts. Seemingly, this person desired to remain anonymous.

Please See GRIFFIN, Page 12



Siblings Antwain and Tamya Griffin enjoy helping others

## 2007 Elba Christmas Festival Entertainment Schedule:

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Breakfast with Santa (inside the Coffeehouse next to The Jewel Box)

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Buck Gaines & Jody James as Roy Orbison and Elvis Presley

11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Miss Christmas Festival Pageants

12:45 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

A Special Presentation

1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

StoryTime with Mrs. Claus & Elves

1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Westside Baptist Adult Choir

2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

"Feels Like Christmas" Play

Presented by:

Chamber Board Members

2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Christmas Movie

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SheBang Dance Crew

## 20th Annual Elba Christmas Festival

Saturday, Dec. 8th

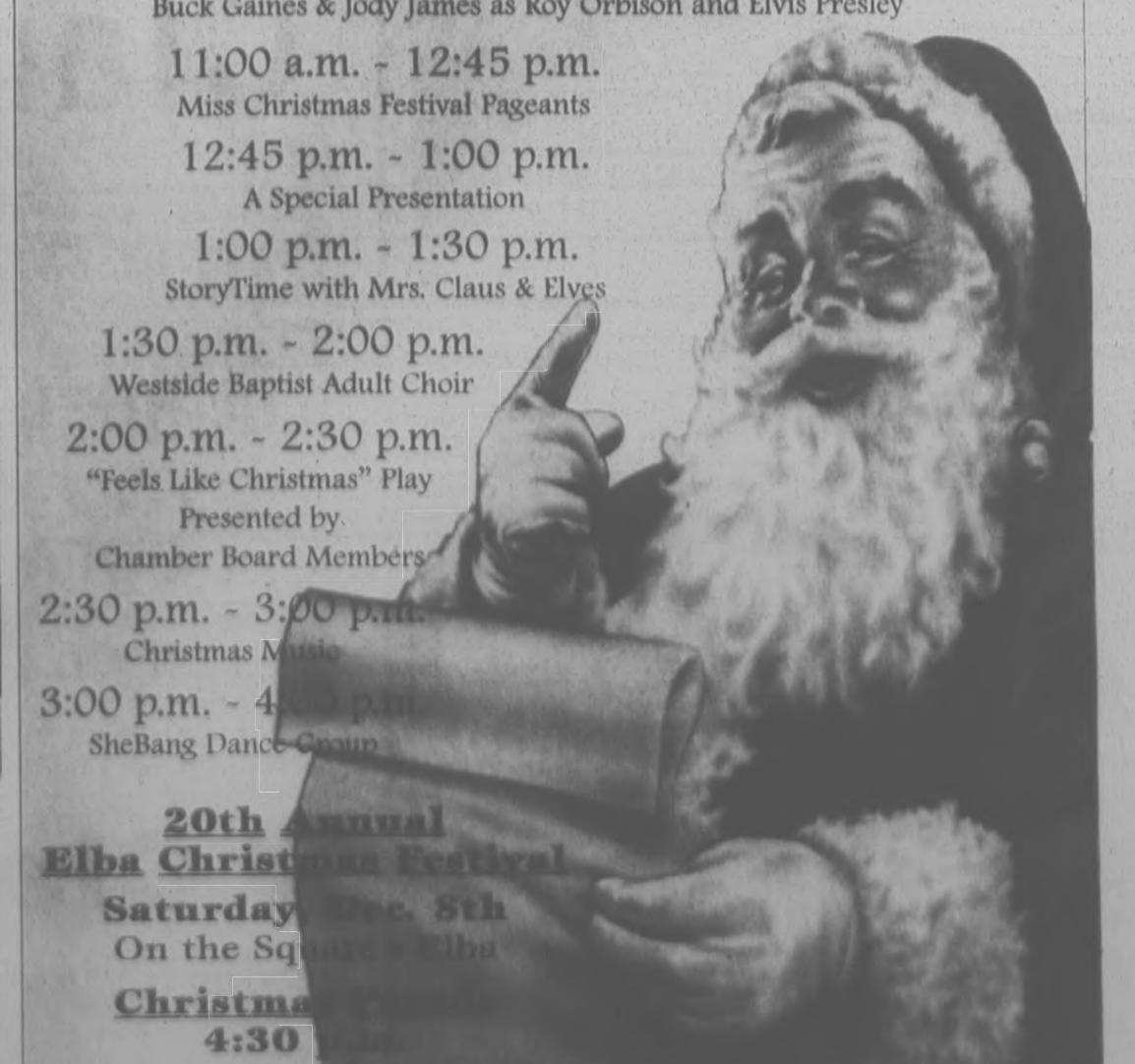
On The Square in Elba

Christmas

4:30



BACK IN BUSINESS...Elba recently welcomed the return of a familiar restaurant. Juliette's Restaurant, located across the street from Dorsey Trailers, reopened in November and offers breakfast and lunch Monday-Saturday. Juliette's also is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and offers a variety of "home cooked" food. The Elba Chamber of Commerce officially welcomed back Juliette's last Thursday, Nov. 29, during a ribbon cutting ceremony. Those present for the ribbon cutting included (from left) Vicki Clark, Eva Medlock, Laurie Chapman, Eddie Vaughan, Kenneth Calhoun, Future Little Miss Elba Makayla Polk, Little Miss Elba Kayla Seay, Coffee County Probate Judge William Gammill, Elba Mayor James Grimes, Jewel Odion - owner, Ann Canley, Michael Moseley, Tawny Hurley, Doris Mathews, Junior Miss Elba Cortin Lee, Alyssa Walden, Herby McCall and Kay Whitworth - executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce.



## EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS  
with Ferrin Cox

No doubt Elba residents and their visitors will have no trouble finding a place to eat in Elba in 2008. The options had dwindled down in recent years but that is fast changing with a variety of eating places opening and in a wide spread pattern. What was just recently a handful of options is fast doubling. That will not only give a wider variety of food but an eatery of some sort close to almost every citizen. Of course if Elba citizens will support these businesses, it will also give employment to residents and more of their tax dollars will stay in town and supporting the local schools children.

The race for just who will be the next U. S. President is heating up. However Alabama folks are just sitting on the sidelines. That isn't going to change. Our population is not large enough to stir the hearts of campaign managers and give them an itch to turn loose money here when they feel it is better spent in larger states. However, we can look down the road and be thinking just which candidate is better for America. In this corner it is still a question mark. However we are still not wavering on "ABC" (anybody but Clinton).

Our e-mail box has begun getting messages with unfounded "facts" knocking Senator Barack Obama, which means to us that his continuing rise in the polls is bothering somebody. Otherwise he would be ignored. Right now the Democratic Party race appears to be a close horse race with Obama and Hillary Clinton swapping back and forth in the lead, according to just who is doing the counting.

It is even harder to figure out which Republican candidate will come out with the nomination. The Arkansas preacher and former governor is making waves in Northern states in spite of being described earlier as also ran. Front running Republicans have begun to temper their political speeches in ways to counter his sudden rise in prominence. Our best advice to Alabama voters is to listen to all the talk, read whatever possible about the candidates and be ready to select a candidate in the November election. We can still vote in a primary, but by that time the majority will probably have already spoken in both parties. As a last resort you can adopt the position of many who cast wary eyes at all politicians and vote for "the lesser of the two evils".

The beautiful season of Christmas is upon us. As our number of time celebrating this special day continues to climb, the length of time between them gets shorter. Experts explain that feeling is being because so many things happen to us "oldies" that have happened before that it seems time flies. Whatever the reason, we accept it and will continue to enjoy the season. Several area residents who traditionally go the extra mile with their Christmas decorations are at it again. The first ones we saw were Bill and Ann Bullard's on the Brundidge Highway. Lots of Elba folks don't travel that road on a regular basis, so rest assured it is worth the extra trip to the city limits on Smith Avenue to see their handwork and annual salute to Christmas.

## Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, November 26, 2007, investigated the following incidents: two for damage to property, one for identity theft, one for receiving stolen property, five for burglary, one for reckless endangerment, three for criminal mischief, four for domestic violence, one for theft of property, one for assault, two for minor in possession of alcohol, one for possession of marijuana, one for disorderly conduct, one for harassment, one for a cat scratch, one vehicle fire and one for giving a false name.

The following arrests were made: two for contempt of court, one for domestic violence, one for assault, two for minor in possession of alcohol, one for disorderly conduct, one for harassment, one for possession of marijuana, three for failure to appear and one for obstructing governmental operations.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: four for speeding, four for a revoked driver's license, one for reckless endangerment, eighteen for violation of the seat belt law, one for improper equipment, one for an expired driver's license, five for no insurance, one for violation of the child restraint law, one for an open container, five for a suspended driver's license and one for giving a false name.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:

Follow the lead of Antwain and Tamya Griffin  
Show compassion for others

by Linda Hodge, Editor

human act.

On this day, I heard a story from a workplace where one co-worker accused another of lying about her reason for not participating in a non-work-related event. It's very unfortunate, but that is something we seem to hear of more and more of every day.

Suddenly the goodness of the Griffin siblings was overshadowed by spite, and I was left wondering, "Where has our compassion for one another gone?"

For the past few years, Antwain and Tamya Griffin have made it a mission to simply, "do good deeds for others." Whether it's taking a box of juice to a workingman or delivering a plate of food to someone else, the Griffin siblings are reviving the spirit of helping others.

Antwain and Tamya weren't going for accolades when they chose to help others. They simply wanted to make a difference.

Uncle Charlie did, however, take notice to their kindness and left a note at the Griffin's home asking them to deliver it to the Elba Clipper.

At the end of the note, the anonymous person wrote, "if you are blessed, bless someone else."

It reminded me of the movie, "Pay It Forward." In the movie, a young boy starts the "pay it forward" movement by simply helping someone else. Once a good deed is done for a person, the recipient of the deed is asked to "pay it forward" by helping others.

My spirit was uplifted when I met the Griffin siblings and learned of their genuine goodness. Before they left the office last Wednesday, I told the siblings they made me want to do more good for others. To put it simply, their kindness warmed my heart.

Fast forward to Friday, and I was reminded of a very different

departmental employee...just an extra perk for the day. The one employee chose not to participate citing a desire to not spend that money with Christmas coming up. Then, after the event, the co-worker accused the employee of having other motives for not participating rather than just accepting her reason.

Come on people. That ought not be acceptable behavior, and it's definitely not the way we ought to treat one another.

After hearing this story, my faith in the human spirit was certainly deflated. Why do we feel it necessary to be spiteful to one another? If a person doesn't want to participate in the non-work-related event, so be it.

Don't call them out and, most definitely, don't accuse them of lying in regards to their reason for not participating. It is, after all, each employee's choice whether to participate or not.

Maybe these folks need to meet the Griffin siblings. At this point, it may be the only way to get them back in check and realize we all need to be a little nicer to each other.

I think one of my Christmas wishes this holiday season will be that we all follow the lead of Antwain and Tamya Griffin and choose to show more goodness. Life's hard enough folks. Let's not make it harder by forgetting to show compassion for one another.

The list of "should be" problems at work could go on and on. However, these days it seems the problems of norm have been replaced by ridicule of the fellow employee.

For example, the story led to this ranting involves an employee choosing not to participate in a non-work-related activity and a fellow employee that made spiteful accusations about the employee.

Co-workers within a department were asked to give money for the purchase of break time treats such as cake, chips, etc. It was not a requirement of

the job.

It's not a requirement of

the job.</



# SCHOOLS

## JOURNALISM SPOTLIGHT

by Maisie Thomas



## Tiger Tales

Editors:  
Erica Daniels &  
Kelly Corder

### Student Spotlight

by Megan Sullivan

This week's Journalism Spotlight is **Kimberly Michele Blue**.

Kim is the 16-year-old daughter of Sylvia Blue. Her favorite thing about journalism is expressing her creativity in the *Tiger Times*.

Kim likes to talk, spend time with her family and friends, and spend time with her boyfriend, Jonathon Richardson. She describes herself as quiet, smart, and intuitive.

After her graduation, she plans to attend EOCC for her basic studies and then transfer to Troy and major in photography or accounting.



Brittany Davis

Explained she plans to attend EOCC for two years and transfer to Troy University to pursue a career in the medical field.

Pilgrim Festival held at Elba Elementary

by Kelly Corder

On Thursday, Nov. 15, Elba Elementary School hosted its annual Pilgrim Festival.

At the Pilgrim Festival, elementary school students came and played games. There were games such as tic tac toe, pick-up-duck and bowling.

Another game was the Candy Tree, where the kids won a prize as well as those their favorite colored lollipop. Teachers, as well as, the Elba High School Ambassadors, worked at the Pilgrim Festival.

Kim Blue, a member of the EHS Ambassadors said, "It was

Support Our Youth & Education



### Elba FFA says "thank you" to the community



**FFA FRUIT SALES**... The Elba High School FFA would like to take this time to say THANK YOU to all who purchased fruit and to all that helped sell and deliver fruit this year. You helped make this year one of our most successful fruit sales events in recent years. This FFA fundraiser is becoming increasingly important as State and Federal funding for our Career Technical programs decrease. Our FFA and AgriConstruction program serves a lot of students in a lot of different ways and we could not do it without the continued support of this great community.

Explained she plans to attend EOCC for two years and transfer to Troy University to pursue a career in the medical field.

Brittany Davis describes herself as caring, brave, outgoing, and bubbly.

When asked about her plans after graduation, Brittany

Explained she plans to attend EOCC for two years and transfer to Troy University to pursue a career in the medical field.

On Tuesday, Nov. 27, the Elba Tigers Jr. High girls faced the Opp. Bobcats. The girls were 3 to 3 in the first quarter.

The Lady Tigers started the game with a tie. In the sec-

ond quarter of the game the Lady Tigers pulled ahead with a score of 8 to 5.

The Lady Tigers came out of the locker room after halftime and scored 12 points in the third quarter, while the Bobcats only scored 2, which led the score to 20 to 7.

In the fourth quarter of the game the Lady Tigers scored 2 points while the Bobcats scored 8 points, which led the score to 22-15. Kei-Anne Edwards led the Tigers with a total of 9 points, and Akira Hutchinson fell in behind her with a total of 8 points.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## The Elba Clipper

417 W. Buford St. • P.O. Box 677  
Elba, AL 36323-0257

### TO PLACE AN AD

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### AUCTIONS

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Now you can find public notices published in newspapers across Alabama at [www.alabamalegals.com](http://www.alabamalegals.com), a site provided by this newspaper and the Alabama Press Association. It's fast, it's easy. And it serves your essential to know.

Free public notice service

AlabamaLegals.com

### YARD SALE

YARD SALE SAT. Dec. 8th - 515 N. Claxton (Next To Old Harders) 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. All Must Go! 12-6-1p

### HELP WANTED-DRIVERS

We strive to prevent errors in your ad, but any correction necessary must be made immediately after first publication to insure proper credit.

### ERRORS

We strive to prevent errors in your ad, but any correction necessary must be made immediately after first publication to insure proper credit.

### PAYMENT

is by cash, check or 30-day charge with approved credit.

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ALL CASH Candy Route. Do you earn \$800 in a day? Your own local candy route. Includes 30 machines and candy. All for \$9,995. 614-1205. (R)

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### HELP WANTED-DRIVERS

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### NO EXPERIENCE

No Job

# SPORTS

Views from....

## THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

The holidays are right around the corner and our plans to take a trip for one of our Christmas presents has already hit a snag with Troy's loss last weekend that knocked it out of the New Orleans Bowl. I had promised the girls we would go to the game and spend a few days in New Orleans, but now that the Trojans lost those plans have been cancelled. The girls still want to take a trip during the holidays and we might head out for a few days. However, college football bowl games are no longer a source of concern.

### FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH....

\*\*\* The Elba Tigers dropped their final two games of the week to Andalusia and Luverne to watch their record fall to 2-3 in early season basketball action. The Tigers surprised Andalusia early in the game and owned an 11-point half-time lead, but fell victim to the Bulldogs' relentless pressure in the second half and dropped a game that could have been a huge early-season win. In the loss to Luverne the Tigers fell behind early and on that given night just weren't good enough to get past a very talented Luverne team. Elba has some solid high school basketball players and fields a team blessed with quickness and desire. However, the team must play well for all four quarters to win, no matter the opponent, and last week found out when it doesn't play well it can get blown off the court. The best thing about the season is that it is still young, and hard work and pride can still make this year's team winners on the court.

\*\*\* The Elba Lady Tigers saw their record slip to 2-3 last week with losses to Andalusia and Luverne, and while the 2-3 record isn't what the players and coaches had hoped for, it really isn't all that bad when one looks at the team and realizes how young and inexperienced the team really is. The Lady Tigers start an eighth-grader at point guard and have only two starters back from a year ago, which means it will take time for the team to jell as it learns its lessons on the court. The pre-season expectations weren't very high, but may have to be adjusted as these girls settle in and find out they can indeed win.

\*\*\* A look around the county finds things pretty much like everyone expected prior to the season. New Brockton is winning big and should be a team to watch all season long, while Kinston is winning one every now and then as it gets used to its new coach and Zion Chapel is working hard trying to figure out how to snap the team's long losing streak that stretches back to the 2004 season. Over on the girls side of the court all three county teams are struggling and it looks like the wins may come only when they compete against each other. The season is young, however, and with hard work things can improve and wins can come.

\*\*\* The "Super Six" high school football finals will be held this week in Birmingham and it looks like there is a very real chance for Prattville (5A), Leroy (2A) and Sweet Water (1A) to repeat as state champions. Leroy may have the hardest road since unbeaten Fife is still alive, but it would be a little unique if three of the state's six football champs manage to win two titles in a row. There is really very little local interest in the state finals since there are no local teams involved. However, if I get the chance I am sure I will catch a few games to see the best the state has to offer.

\*\*\* In closing... work is scheduled to get underway soon for the renovation of the high school's baseball and softball fields. Plans are to replace the infields on both fields with a crushed brick that is much more fine in nature than the existing surface, while the back stops will be removed and replaced with one that includes a brick base and netting rather than fencing. The baseball and softball programs got covered batting cages last season, and with the latest additions, should be as good or better than any around.

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### Claim back-to-back wins

## Elba Tigers sweep past Kinston Bulldogs

The Elba Tigers hit the court twice last week to battle their cross-county rivals from Kinston and made a clean sweep of the two contests as they claimed wins over the Bulldogs 11-10 and 65-58, to improve their record to 2-1 in early-season basketball action.

"We played well in spots in both games," stated Elba's Coach Glen Johnson, "but still have a lot of work to do. Our quickness made a difference in both games and helped lead us to the wins. However, we will have to improve in all areas of the game if we are to have any chance at all to have a winning season."

Following are highlights of both wins:

### ELBA 65 KINSTON 58

The Elba Tigers used the same script in the second game of the series as they rallied to outscore the Kinston Bulldogs 65-58, in Kinston. The Bulldogs were determined to gain revenge in the rematch and owned a 30-25 lead at the half, but the Tigers grabbed a 45-40 lead in the third quarter and held on late to escape with the hard fought 65-58 win. Karen Siler scored 23 points to lead Elba, while Keenan Phillips added 14. AJ Johnson scored 21 points to lead Kinston, while Matt Whigham added 12.

Elba (65): Hudson 1, Harrelson 3, Siler 23, Phillips 14, Cooks 6, Respress 5, Caldwell 5, McBride 8.

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## Brantley VFD receives ISO rating of 4

The Brantley Volunteer Fire Department averages 130 calls per year and recently received a high rating of 4 by the Insurance Services Office (ISO).

The ISO rates all fire departments throughout the United States. A class 4 rating is excellent, especially for an all-volunteer fire department. ISO collects information on municipal fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the United States.

In each of those communities, ISO analyzes the relevant data using the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). They then assign a Public Protection

Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 represents exemplary public protection and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria.

To determine a community's Public Protection Classification (PPCTM), ISO conducts a field survey. Expert ISO staff visits the community to observe and evaluate features of the fire protection systems.

ISO has extensive information on more than 44,000 fire departments. Of those 44,000, only 3,036 have a rating of a class 4. Of those 3,036, less than 300 are all volunteer. Brantley is

one of those 300 out of 44,000 that have a class 4 rating.

The Brantley Fire Department received 66.14 points and received a class 4 rating also. Brantley Fire Department has 26 members.

Brantley Fire Department's equipment consists of: 2008 Ford Mini-Pumper, 250 GPM; 2006 Kenworth Pumper Tanker, 1250 GPM; 2004 Pierce Pumper, 1250 GPM; 1996 E-One Mini Pumper, 500 GPM; 1996 Ford E350 Rescue Truck; and a 1991 E-One Pumper, 1500 GPM.

## DRUGS

(Continued from Page One)

while allowing the focus to stay on the Griffin siblings.

According to the note, Antwain and Tamya "do a good deed for someone every day from the trash man to the roadman saying you never know who goes to work without."

When they go to the store to purchase groceries, the note indicated the children also make sure to put extra food in the cart for others need.

The two have been dedicated to "doing good deeds" for the past three years. Mrs. Griffin said the family did not think much about others paying attention to their kindness. Instead, she said it is just the way she and her husband, Johnny, choose to raise Antwain and Tamya.

"I tell them (Antwain and Tamya) when they leave the

house, they are not just representing themselves, they are representing the entire family," said Mrs. Griffin.

She said she wants her children to realize the importance of doing good deeds and how much kindness can help others.

According to Tamya, she and her brother continue to "do good deeds" because they want to do something good for other people.

Mrs. Griffin said her grandmother implemented the helping others idea in her as she grew up, and it was something she chose to pass along to her children. She said she is extremely proud of her children and their dedication to helping others.

The note concluded by passing along one simple message, "if you are blessed...bless someone else."

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• Third - Will it build GOOD WILL

and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

• Fourth - Will it be BENEFICIAL to

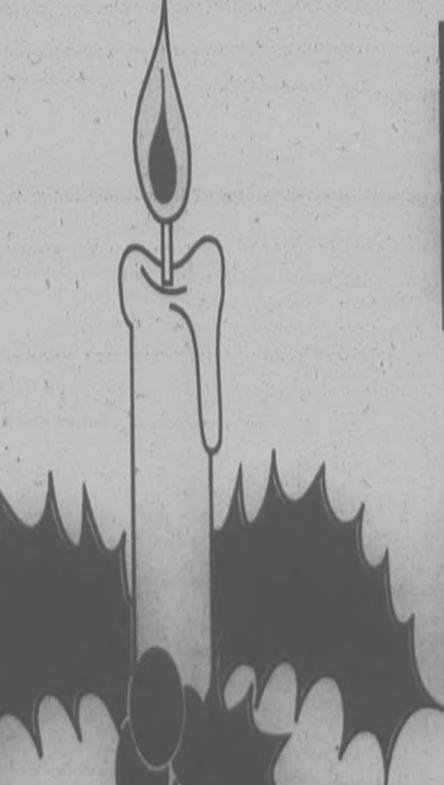
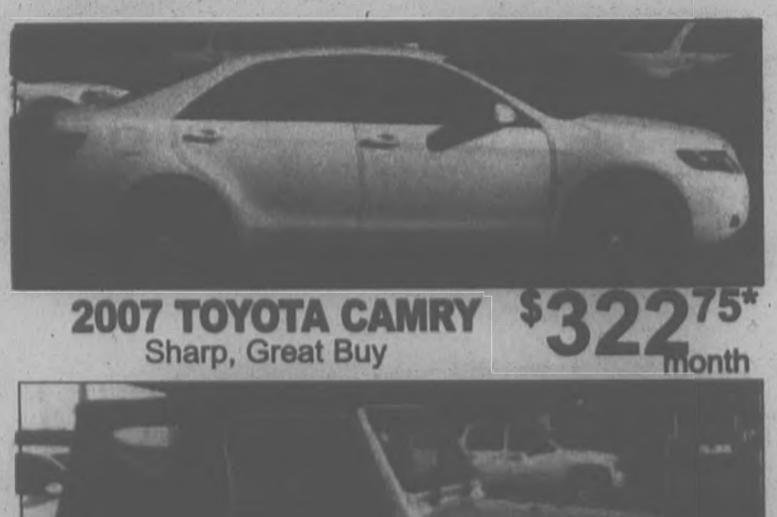
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# The Elba Clipper

Volume 111, Number 27

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, December 13, 2007

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts

## Elba City Council completes official business for balance of 2007

by Fern Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council held two meetings in one Monday evening. Alabama law requires the City of Elba council to meet at least twice monthly.

In December this is traditionally accomplished by meeting twice on the same night. Separate minutes are kept, the council works off completely different agendas and the roll is called at the beginning of each session.

In the first session the council heard a report from the police chief, reviewed the financial statement and approved the monthly bills.

Police Chief Freddy Hanchey reported increased activity during the past several weeks. He attributed this to additional officers being on patrol and a transportation grant that paid overtime for officers to work fire control.

The financial statement for the first month of the fiscal year shows revenue slightly below the 1/12 of the annual projections; however, Mayor James Grimes said this would even out with the December sales taxes and with annual business licenses coming due.

Expenses were also below the one-twelfth portion for most of the labor-intensive city departments, which showed up in the current accounting year, were actually budgeted in the previous year but not paid until the first weeks of the current fiscal year.

Monthly bills totaling \$84,104.76 were approved for payment.

In other business the council approved moving forward with demolition of a house on Larkin Road. Grimes reported the mountain of paperwork required for this action has taken quite a while to complete.

The meeting adjourned and the council immediately reconvened for the second meeting of the month.

The council voted to declare an old 1953 model fire truck as surplus and transfer title to Mike Haynes. The mayor explained that Haynes plans to restore the vehicle and display it in the museum he plans for the old National Security building on the Troy Highway.

City Clerk Wayne Grantham reported a second truck has been put on the roads this week to catch up on leaves and limbs.

Grimes reported he finally has the 13 property deeds from FEMA necessary for the continuation of the four laning of U.S. 84 through Elba. The deeds have been recorded and the mayor also plans to convey copies to the state highway department this week. These deeds do not convey ownership of the impacted land, but gives

them an "outdated" law. He said surrounding states such as Florida, Georgia and Mississippi have laws that allow the hunt of nuisance animals such as coyote, and the local hunters are only asking for the same in Alabama.

Davis is one of several local hunters that formed a group now referred to as the Organization of Ethical Game Laws. They are seeking changes to Alabama hunting laws that would allow for hunters to buy, sell and transport coyotes within the state.

Currently, Davis said hunters

cannot trap and bring new game to the enclosure, which Davis said will eventually ruin their sport.

This has been the law for years, but Davis said it was overlooked. However, due to recent high-profile animal cruelty cases, he said the issue has become a problem locally. Davis believes there is a lot of misrepresentation about his sport.

He said the dogs used to run the animals are scent dogs. They are raised in a kennel and trained for field trials and pleasure hunting. Their purpose is to pick up the scent of the game and try and locate it.

Davis' kennel, Victory Kennel, currently holds 35 dogs

Homeland Security (FEMA) officials.

Mayor Grimes said this is a good Christmas present."

Elba Mayor James Grimes looks over the long fought for deeds to allow the U.S. 84 four lane project to proceed through the Riverview subdivision. FEMA was for a long time virtually non responsive to get waivers on the 13 parcels of land purchased under the "Forever Green" flood buyout program.

Katie's house becomes Fowler's home

## Habitat for Humanity House dedicated in Enterprise

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Coffee County Habitat for Humanity of Alabama celebrated a special day Sunday, Dec. 9, as another Coffee County family became homeowners. While those involved with Habitat for Humanity feel every dedication day is a special day, this particular day will be remembered for much more.

Coffee County's newest completed Habitat for Humanity home is located at 801 West Watts Street in Enterprise, and this house was "built by loving hands" according to the plaque.

College Avenue Church of Christ in Enterprise part-

nered with Coffee County for Humanity to build "Katie's house" with the blessing of the Strunk family.

On Sunday, Dec. 9, "Katie's house" officially became the Farlow family's home.

On March 1, 2007, a devastating tornado

claimed nine lives in Enterprise.

Among those

was Katie

Strunk, a student

at Enterprise High School.

Keith Ellis, minister of College Avenue Church of Christ, told those attending Sunday's dedication ceremony that following the tragic tornado, the church wanted to come up with a project that would honor Katie. They found such a project through Coffee County Habitat for Humanity.

This Habitat for Humanity house, located at 801 West Watts Street in Enterprise, was dedicated last Sunday afternoon. The house was built in memory of Katie Strunk, one of the Enterprise High School students killed during the March 1, 2007 tornado.

Ellis said they picked a recipient family that was directly affected by the tornado.

Katie is very much alive in our hearts and memories," Ellis said. "Today we honor her and pray that

Please See HABITAT HOUSE, Page 12

This small plaque can be found just above the front door of the Habitat for Humanity house built in memory of Katie Strunk. College Avenue Church of Christ partnered with Habitat for Humanity to build the home.

Local hunter worries sport will diminish if changes are not made to hunting laws

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Vic Davis loves training his dogs for coyote hunting and field trial competitions, but, Davis worries his sport will soon be no more if changes are not made to hunting laws in Alabama.

City Clerk Wayne Grantham reported a second truck has been put on the roads this week to catch up on leaves and limbs.

Grimes reported he finally has the 13 property deeds from FEMA necessary for the continuation of the four laning of U.S. 84 through Elba. The deeds have been recorded and the mayor also plans to convey copies to the state highway department this week. These deeds do not convey ownership of the impacted land, but gives

them an "outdated" law. He said surrounding states such as Florida, Georgia and Mississippi have laws that allow the hunt of nuisance animals such as coyote, and the local hunters are only asking for the same in Alabama.

Without a change in the law, the coyote hunters are only allowed to hunt the game already in an existing enclosure.

Currently, Davis said hunters

cannot buy, sell or transport wild game such as coyote due to

an outdated law. He said surrounding states such as Florida, Georgia and Mississippi have laws that allow the hunt of nuisance animals such as coyote, and the local hunters are only asking for the same in Alabama.

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